



News Release

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SOYBEAN ACRES EXPECTED TO INCREASE; CORN ACRES TO DECREASE

SIoux FALLS, March 31, 2008 -- Producers in South Dakota intend to plant 900,000 more acres of soybeans but 350,000 fewer acres of corn than last year, according to the South Dakota office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. These intentions are based on a March 1 survey. Any planting changes due to weather or other factors will be accounted for when actual plantings are obtained in early June.

Corn plantings in South Dakota for 2008 are expected to be 4.65 million acres, down 7 percent from 2007.

Soybean plantings are expected to total 4.10 million acres, up 28 percent from a year ago.

All hay acreage to be harvested is estimated at 3.50 million acres, down 8 percent from last year.

Winter wheat acres seeded last fall totaled 1.90 million acres, down 10 percent from a year earlier.

Other spring wheat seeding intentions are at 1.65 million acres, up 18 percent from 2007.

Durum wheat seeding intentions, at 20,000 acres, are up 122 percent from last year.

Sunflower acreage is expected to total 450,000 acres, up 8 percent from last year. **Oil sunflowers** will account for 410,000 acres, up 4 percent from 2007. **Non-oil sunflowers** will account for 40,000 acres, up 100 percent from 2007.

Sorghum planted acreage is expected to total 170,000 acres, down 19 percent from last year.

Oats to be seeded, estimated at 200,000 acres, are down 39 percent from 2007.

Barley seedings, estimated at 60,000 acres, are up 4,000 acres from 2007.

Flax seedings, estimated at 14,000 acres, are up 5,000 acres from 2007.

Dry edible bean planting intentions, estimated at 10,000 acres, are down 3,000 acres from last year.

Access this complete report at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/ProsPlan/2000s/2008/ProsPlan-03-31-2008.pdf>